

renew



by Kayla Schlechter

>> BEFORE



>> AFTER

Fixer Upper

What started as small landscape projects – lawn mowing and landscape trimming – turned into a full on home makeover project. The team at POET Biorefining – Corning, Iowa had volunteered to help out the elderly residents in their community by performing some outdoor lawn tasks. Upon arriving at Beverly Cross’s house, they discovered an exterior to a home that was in poor repair.

This woman, who has her own history of bettering her community, is a widower that had lost her home’s insurance and was unable to do the repairs on her own. The team took it upon themselves to put the house back in livable condition. They replaced the roof, built new front steps capable of accommodating her walker, removed an ailing back porch to replace it with a new deck, repaired damaged wood and holes in the foundation and painted the house.

The team in Corning was able to eliminate some concern for this sweet woman – giving back to someone who has given much in her lifetime.

Honoring Veterans

As years pass, sacrifices from veterans sometimes go overlooked; harder times are forgotten except by those who experienced them first hand. A non-profit organization called the Honor Flight Network is remembering what these brave souls have done to make our great nation what it is today.

Realizing that some veterans never have the opportunity to visit memorials created to honor them and their fallen comrades, the Honor Flight Network transports veterans to Washington, D.C. to reflect at their memorials. Through generous donations, veterans are able to travel at no cost to themselves.

Other veterans volunteer to travel at their own expense to act as a “guardian” for older veterans. Steve Anderson, an Operator at POET Biorefining – Hanlontown, Iowa, and Vietnam Veteran, is one such guardian. On June 16, Steve traveled to Washington D.C. where his group was welcomed by an honor guard then boarded a bus to tour several different memorials and historical destinations.

A guardian on many fronts, Steve’s contributions today are not going overlooked.

“Steve’s loyalty and consistent hard work have been recognized by his peers and his contributions to the team have been excellent,” says Kelly Hansen, General Manager at POET Biorefining – Hanlontown. “I appreciate the commitment and sacrifices he has made during his life to support this great country while protecting our freedoms.





SUMMER MEMORIES AT THE POOL

A swimming pool in small town America holds more than just the smell of chlorine. It's the definition of summertime – the excited laughter of local children that can be heard blocks away, kids dripping all the way from the pool to the local ice cream shop, the chance to dunk a friend that sits next to you in math class all year.

Feeling the strain of tough budgets, the Village of Leipsic, Ohio wasn't going to be able to open the city pool this past summer. Local citizens understood the need to manage costs and also the importance of giving kids a safe environment to interact with their friends. They undertook the responsibility to raise the necessary funds, but fell short. That's when a few businesses in the community stepped up.

POET Biorefining – Leipsic, along with two other businesses, donated the remaining funds to allow the community to open the pool. During one of the hottest summers on record, the kids of Leipsic enjoyed relief, relaxation and lingering memories of their summer at the pool.

Back to School

Back to school shopping is an exciting time for most kids. Shiny new pens, fresh crayons and bright colored notebooks help them prepare for another year learning with friends. But there are several children who aren't able to make this traditional trip – those kids whose luxuries don't include everything on the back to school list.

POET Biorefining – Emmetsburg, Iowa took this as an opportunity to help out their



community and become involved with the Upper Des Moines Back-to-School Drive. They were able to collect donations of various school supplies such as pens, pencils, notebooks, folders, crayons, colored pencils and glue. Upper Des Moines then took the supplies and divided them among a list of kids in need – some of the supplies even coming back to kids in the Emmetsburg area.

Because of this effort, kids throughout the region were able to start school with a backpack full of colorful new supplies for their bright futures.



Biomass Kickoff

On a cool day in August, 375 Iowa farmers gathered to learn about the future of agriculture.

During most of their lifetimes, harvest has been about gathering grain – and only grain. Now, when asked to gather light corn stover and cobs, some assume the practice of farming is forever changed.

But how much does the collection really change?



How will they get it from point A to point Biorefinery? How much money will they make? These are only a few of the questions rambling through the minds of the 85 Emmetsburg farmers that have signed on to show the rest of the world it can be done.

At the very site where the first commercial cellulosic biorefinery will be constructed, adjacent to the existing grain-based POET Biorefining – Emmetsburg, farmers chatted with experts in each of these areas during an event to kickoff the first commercial biomass harvest.

- Collection won't change drastically, Scott Weishaar, POET Vice President of Commercial

Development told the audience. Project LIBERTY will be accepting either first pass or second pass bales.

- Stover collection will have little to no impact on soil quality, Professor Stuart Birrell, Iowa State University, assured Emmetsburg.

- Bales made from stover are treated very similar to hay bales – a process most farmers in Emmetsburg are already familiar with, Kevin Kenney, Idaho National Lab Research Engineer said.

- The Biomass Crop Assistance Program will actually match payments to farmers for harvest and delivery of cobs for cellulosic ethanol, explained Lynn Tjeerdsma, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm



Programs at USDA.

POET CEO Jeff Broin emphasized the impact each and every one of the farmers is having on the nation. Years from now, Emmetsburg-area farmers will look back on this fall's harvest as the beginning of something special.

Questions answered.